

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expression cassette containing an adenoviral VA1 promoter and a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the construct is operatively linked to the adenoviral VA1 promoter and wherein the interfering RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is contained within a non-essential stem region of the promoter.

Claim 3 (original): The expression cassette of claim 2, wherein the non-essential stem region contains a BstEII site.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a microRNA (miRNA).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct comprises a loop containing from about 4 to about 9 bases.

Claim 6 (original): The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the loop contains about 8 bases.

Claim 7 (withdrawn/previously presented): A method for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.

Claim 8 (withdrawn/previously presented): A method for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 4, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.

Claim 9 (withdrawn/previously presented): A method for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.

Claim 10 (withdrawn/previously presented): A method for expressing an interfering RNA molecule in a mammalian cell, comprising introducing into the mammalian cell the expression cassette of claim 6, wherein the adenoviral VA1 promoter directs the expression of the construct in the cell.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mammalian cell into which has been introduced a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule operatively linked to an adenoviral VA1 promoter, wherein the RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer.

Claim 12 (original): The mammalian cell of claim 11, wherein the mammalian cell is a primary cell.

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Claim 13 (new): The expression cassette of claim 4, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 14 (new): The expression cassette of claim 4, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a microRNA (miRNA).